THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) In April, 1993, Government introduced Parallel Marketing Scheme. Under this scheme, a private party can undertaken the import of LPG and kerosene and can sell these products at market determined prices under their own distribution network. So far petrol pumps are concerned, it is not yet open to the private sector.

(b) As per the records maintained in this Ministry, no private party has reported about the setting up of LPG and petrol dealerships under parallel marketing scheme in respect of Meghalaya.

Retail outlets of petroleum products in Karnataka

1630. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of petroleum products in Karnataka;

(b) the places where new petroleum retail outlets are proposed to be opened in Karnataka during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) how many new retail outlets to be opened in Bellary District during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 1.10.1999 there were 1039 retail outlets in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans 49 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Karnataka including 2 for District Bellary.

Cess paid by ONGC to OIDB

1631. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC propose to pay more than 2000 crores as cess during the current financial year to the Oil Industry Development Board;

(b) if so, the total amount of cess paid by ONGC to OIDB during the past three years;

(c) the purpose for which Oil Industry Development Board utilised the said cess amount; and

(d) to what extent the development of Oil Industry in the country have succeeded in achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The proceeds of cess, levied under the provision of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf, so provides, pay to the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), from time to time, from out of such proceeds, after deducting the expenses of collection, such sums of money as it may think fit for being utilised exclusively for the purposes of the Act.

The Amount of cess paid by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), including ONGC's share in Joint Ventures, to the Central Government during the years 1996-97 to 1998-1999 has been around Rs. 6940 crore and the same, likely to be paid by them during the current year *i.e.* 1999-2000, will be around Rs. 2085 crore (provisionally).

During the period mentioned above, no appropriation has been made by the Central Goverment to OIDB out of the cess proceeds. From the funds available, OIDB continued to extend financial assistance to the oil industry in terms of Section 6(1) of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 during the period in question.

Supply of piped line gas in Gujarat

1632. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to supply piped line gas to Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat in Gujarat.

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The availability of gas being much less than the allocations already made to consumers in Gujarat, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has no proposal at present to supply piped gas in any of these cities. However, Gujarat Gas Company Limited a consumer of GAIL is supply piped gas in Surat.